

Arbor Day in Georgia

Ideas, Materials, and Resources














"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882



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LIVE OAK
(*Quercus virginiana*)

Commonly Asked Questions

What is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day is a day set aside for schools, civic clubs, and other organizations, as well as individuals, to reflect on the importance of trees in our state and across our nation. Check out this packet for neat activities and projects you can do to celebrate Arbor Day in your community.

When is Arbor Day in Georgia?

Arbor Day in Georgia is observed each year on the third Friday in February. In 1941 the Georgia General Assembly set this date as the day of our state Arbor Day.



What is the history of Arbor Day?

J. Sterling Morton is credited as the father of Arbor Day. He initiated the holiday in 1872. For a history of Morton's life and Arbor Day refer to pages 4 and 5 of the *Celebrate Arbor Day Guidebook*.

Why do we celebrate Arbor Day?

"Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future." These are J. Sterling Morton's words about Arbor Day. Every tree planted on Arbor Day helps clean the air, beautify neighborhoods, provide homes for wildlife, conserve energy, and prevent soil erosion among many other things. Arbor Day gives everyone an opportunity to learn about trees and the benefits they provide to communities.

What is Georgia's State Tree?

The state tree of Georgia is the live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The largest live oak in Georgia is almost 10 feet in diameter, 86 feet tall, with a limb spread of 143 feet. This Georgia Champion is in Waycross, Georgia. For more information on habitat, historic use, and varieties, visit the Extension Forest Resources web site of the University of Georgia at www.forestry.uga.edu/warnell/service/library.

What is the National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest?

The National Arbor Day Foundation sponsors an annual poster contest for 5th graders. Students design a poster around a tree theme specified by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The first place winner competes in a national contest. To request a poster contest packet for your school, contact the Georgia Forestry Commission at 912-751-3528 between October 15 and December 15. Entries are due in January to the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Where can I get more information about Arbor Day and the Urban & Community Forestry Program in Georgia?

Contact Susan Reisch, Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator, Georgia Forestry Commission, 6835 James B. Rivers/Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA, 404-298-3935, sreisch@gfc.state.ga.us or Georgia Forestry Commission Headquarters, Urban & Community Forestry Program, P.O. Box 819, Macon, GA 31202, 800-GA TREES, www.gfc.state.ga.us for more information.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR ARBOR DAY

Students can

Write - Poems
Plays
Stories
Essays
Songs

Draw - Pictures
Posters
Murals
Stamps

Create - Program Handouts for School Program



Emphasis

Content, Original Thought, Uniqueness, and Creative Effort

Judging

Teachers, PTA, Local Garden Clubs

Suggested Topics

What It's Like to be a Tree
Why We Should Preserve Trees
A Tree's Role in the Environment
A View from the Top of a Tree

A Day in the Life of a Tree
How Trees Help Save Energy
Who Should Plant Trees
Who Depends on Trees

Organizing An Arbor Day Poem Contest

Eligibility

First, decide what grade will be eligible. If multiple grades participate, separate divisions may have to be established.

Prizes

If prizes are going to be awarded (cash, gift certificate, other), locate a sponsor such as a business or local organization.

Topics

Some suggested topics are the History of Arbor Day, Trees and the Environment, Trees in our Nation's History, the Benefits of Trees, or other topics related to Arbor Day, trees, or forestry.

Judging

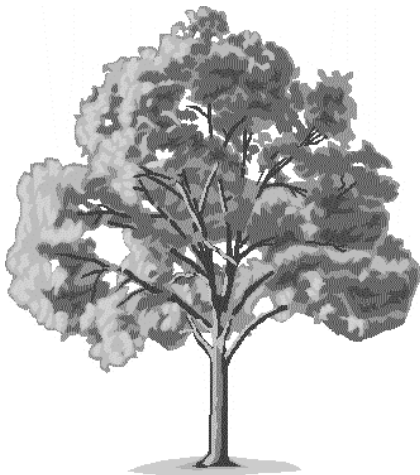
Arrange for a judge or panel of judges to read the poems and select the winner(s). A suggested format for judging is:

25 points	---	relation to Arbor Day, trees, or forest conservation
20 points	---	creativity
20 points	---	style and continuity
15 points	---	composition and construction
10 points	---	spelling
10 points	---	grammar

Deadline

The deadline for the contest should be set a couple of weeks before Arbor Day. Winners can be announced at the community's tree planting ceremony or other appropriate event.

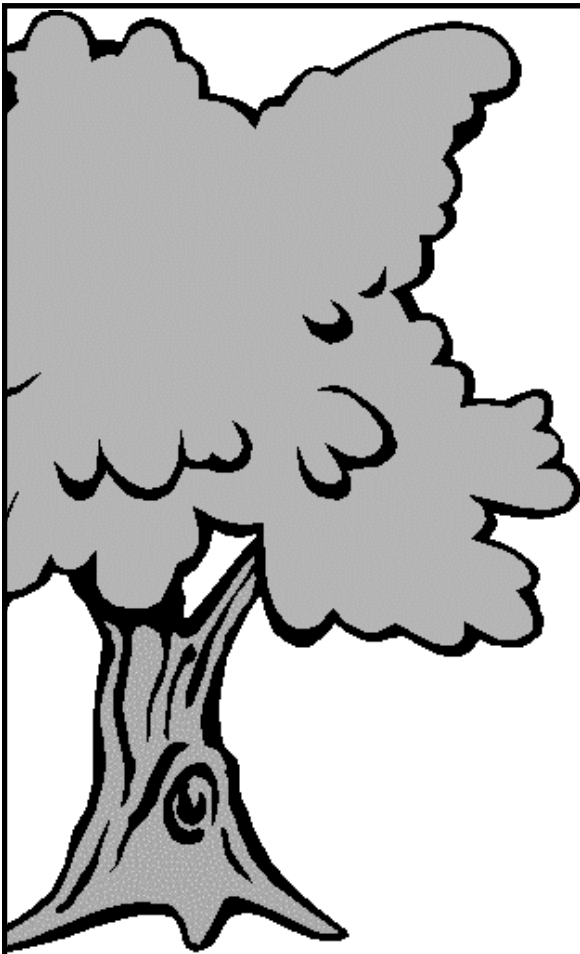
An essay contest could be organized by following a format similar to what is outlined above.



Habitat Rap

Trees are important and we're here to say
You should plant one every day.
It started in Nebraska as Mr. Morton's fad
And everyone thought it was totally rad.
Trees were planted all over the land
People came from everywhere to lend a hand.
It came to be known as Arbor Day
And everyone knew it was here to stay.
If we keep on working and show we care
Soon it will be celebrated everywhere.
Now we have Arbor Day and Earth Day, too
But there's still much more that we can do.
Plant those trees and care for them, too
Clean up the air and let the sun shine through!

*Kate Burakowski, Stephen Butterfield,
Janel D'Agata, Alyssa VanWie
1990 Derry Village School, NH*



What is a Tree?

To a carpenter, it is a table. To a fisherman, it is a boat that carries him across the waters. To a plowman, it is a yoke to harness his oxen. To a village woman, it is firewood to cook the evening's rice. To a herder, it is fodder for cows and goats. To a farmer, it is what prevents the good soil from being washed away. To a child, it is a place to play amidst the squirrels and birds. To a tired and weary traveler, it is shade from the sun and shelter from the rain. To elephants and monkeys, it is home.

For humankind, it is part of a vast green blanket that protects the earth from the intense rays of the sun. To our planet Earth, it is lungs. Trees produce oxygen that we breathe. A tree is the very breath of life itself.

*From: 1989 Children and Trees Project
Shanta, Success Road
Auroville, Kottakuppam 605 104,
Tamil Nadu, India*



Tree Planting Tips



Trees require proper care from the time they are purchased, during planting, and after they are planted.

Planning for Tree Planting

Proper planning is the key to a successful tree planting and a healthy tree. When selecting a site, several factors should be considered:

- What size will the tree be at maturity?
- CAUTION: Have you located overhead or underground utilities? Not only could they be dangerous to you while digging, they could impede the tree's growth or make pruning by the utilities necessary in the future.
- Are nearby buildings a reasonable distance away?
- Is there enough space for the tree's roots?
- When transporting a tree by hand, carry the tree by the root ball, providing support to the bottom of the ball. Never carry it by its main trunk or branches.
- If the tree must be stored prior to planting, place it out of the wind, preferably in a cool place such as a garage.
- Do not allow the root ball to dry out. It is critical that the tree's roots remain moist during storage.

Preparing the Planting Area

It is much easier to consider these factors prior to planting rather than to have to move the tree once it is already established. Once the planting site has been carefully selected, it is time to dig the hole. A properly prepared hole will give a new tree a tremendous step toward recovery.

- Because most roots spread through the top 12 inches of soil, the planting hole should be designed to encourage this type of root development.
- Thus, the sides of the hole should be sloped, and the hole dug as deeply as the root ball and at least twice as wide.

Tree Planting

- Only lift the tree by the root ball to place it in the hole.
- The tree should be placed at the same depth at which it was previously growing. If it is planted too deep, then the roots will suffocate; if it is too shallow, then the roots may quickly dry out.
- Remove trees from plastic containers before planting. If the tree's root ball is bound by a wire basket or treated burlap, or if there is any doubt that the root wrap will decompose, it should be removed.
- Do not let the dirt separate from the tree's root system. Finally, remember to cut and remove any cords or string that are still tied to the tree.

continued on back

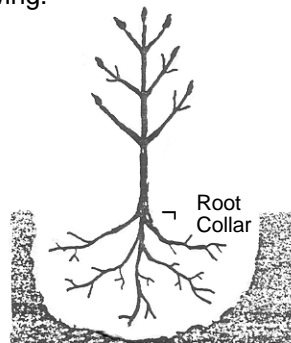
- Fill the hole with native soil. Research has proven that soil amendments (including fertilizers) are not necessary and are perhaps even detrimental to the tree's long-term survival.
- Alternate adding soil and water in the planting hole to eliminate air pockets. Avoid tamping the surface of the soil around the tree as it may become compacted.
- Finally, build a reservoir around the tree, mounding a ridge of soil three to four inches high around the perimeter of the planting hole.

Post-Planting

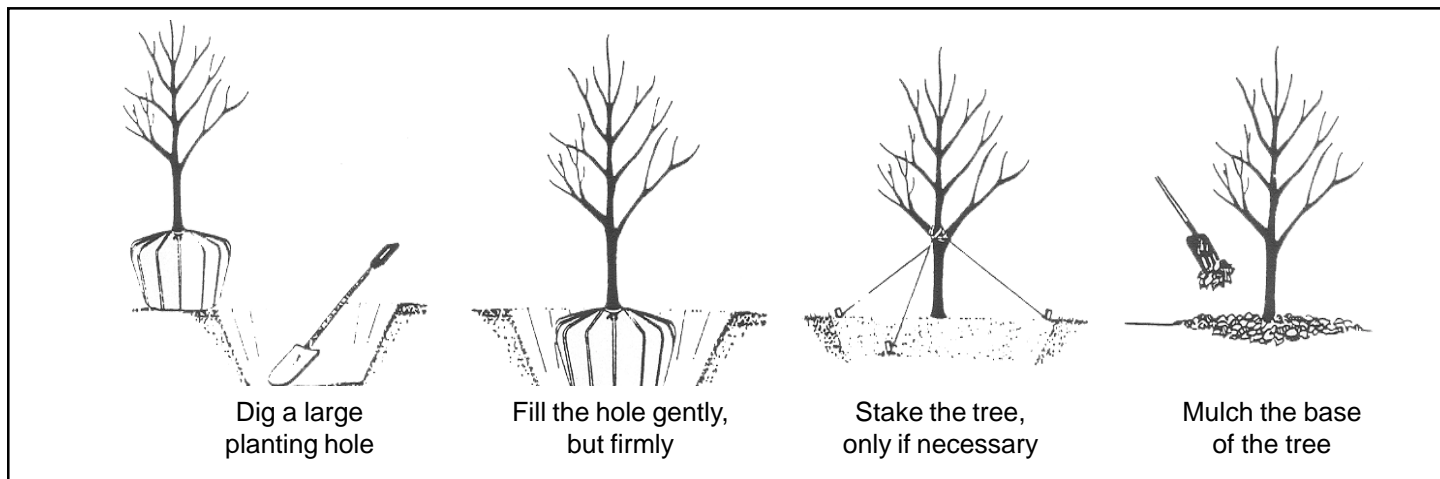
Post-planting maintenance is often overlooked, but it is of the utmost importance if a new tree is to survive. Watering is the key to survival. It helps the tree to develop a strong new root system. Mulching is also vitally important to a young tree as it retains moisture, prevents soil compaction, helps prevent weeds, and protects tender tree roots from temperature extremes.

- Generally, new trees should be watered at least once a week, and more often during hot weather.
- Keep the soil moist, but not soaked.
- Place a three-inch thick layer of organic mulch around the base of the tree. Do not place mulch against the tree trunk. Spread it out beyond the branches.
- Other types of post-planting maintenance may or may not be needed. Pruning is not usually necessary, and a new tree needs all of its foliage to produce food for root growth. Corrective pruning therefore should be delayed until the second year after planting.
- Staking is also often unnecessary. Stakes and guide wires should only be used if the tree cannot support itself.
- If the tree needs additional support, then a loosely fitted figure-8 tie can be applied about six inches above the point at which the tree can stand up on its own. Stakes and ties, if used at all, should usually be removed within one year.

1. Dig hole with shovel or mattock. (Hole must be large enough to accommodate spreading root system.)
2. Place seedling in hole so root collar is at ground level.
3. Spread root system to approximate original position.
4. Pack soil firmly around roots
5. Water thoroughly after planting
6. Place protective stake near plant to prevent damage from trampling and/or mowing.



For more information on tree health visit the Extension Forest Resources web site of the University of Georgia at www.forestry.uga.edu/efr/subjects/community.html



Tips for Planning an Arbor Day Event



Purpose

Know the purpose of your event. Are you planting a tree, recognizing partners, or reading an Arbor Day proclamation?

The Event

Formal ceremonies should be brief - no more than 15 minutes.

Invite dignitaries, officials, celebrities, and the media. Send out press releases at least two days in advance and follow up with the media before the event.

Confirm speakers and presenters beforehand. Let them know what to expect.

Pass out brochures or materials you have created through your program.

Needed Supplies

You may want to have a microphone, podium, chairs, refreshments, name tags, markers, press releases, certificates of recognition, and Tree City USA flags and signs available.

If you are planting a tree, make sure you have the necessary tree planting materials: tree, shovel, water, and mulch.

Directions

Directions and a map to the event are critical for volunteers and the media. Banners and signs may be needed to point people in the right direction. Be sure to plan ahead for parking.

Take Pictures!



Resources



Music

Billy B. Sings About Trees

A cassette of 14 upbeat kids' songs by Bill Brennan. Do Dreams Music, P.O. Box 5623, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Videos

It's Arbor Day, Charlie Brown!

1977. Charles M. Schultz. United Feature Syndicate. Random House, New York, NY. Video version available for \$14.95 plus shipping from The National Arbor Day Foundation, P.O. Box 85784, Lincoln, NE 68501-5784.

The Lorax

1971. Dr. Suess. Random House, New York, NY. Rent the Lorax video from: The Film & Video Library, Univ. of Michigan, 400 Fourth St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103-4816 or from Population Reference Bureau Inc., 777 14th St. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005.

The Man Who Planted Trees

1985. Jean Giono. Chelsea Green. A poignant true story for both adults and children. Video version available for \$33.45 postpaid from CBC Home Video, P.O. Box 6440, Station A, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3L4, Canada. 514-597-4040.

Materials

This is Your Life, Acer Maple

For grades 3-5. The package uses art, drama, and science to teach children, especially urban students, the importance of trees in the environment. Package includes an activity/instruction booklet, 6.5 minute video of children performing the title play, a 60-slide show, and poster ("Life, Death, and Rebirth of Trees"). Available for \$34 plus postage from A-V Communications, 435 Crooked Lane, King of Prussia, PA 19406. 215-272-8500.

Trees Are Terrific

1985. Ranger Rick's Naturescope. To purchase, write to: National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036-2266.

Cost: \$7.95 plus postage.

We All Need Trees Poster

Project Learning Tree's four-color poster shows how important trees are to people and wildlife. To order, write to: PLT Poster, 1111 19th Street, N.W., Suite 780, Washington, DC 20036. Cost: \$1.00.

What's A Tree to Me

1981. A special urban tree project booklet targeted towards grades 4-6. Includes a leader's guide. The materials invite students to learn about tree identification, food and paper products, which come from trees, and tree age. To order, contact: Supply Service, National 4-H Council, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Cost: \$0.95 each plus shipping.

The Simple Act of Planting a Tree, a Citizen Forester's Guide to Healing Your Neighborhood, Your City, and Your World

1990. TreePeople with Andy and Katie Lipkis. Jeremy P. Archer, Inc., Los Angeles. Cost: \$12.95.

Organizations and Web Sites

Environmental Fund for Georgia

1447 Peachtree St. NE Suite 502, Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone 404-873-3173, Fax 404-873-1284, efg@efg.org
www.efg.org/index.html

USDA Forest Service - Southern Region

www.urbanforestrysouth.org

Georgia Forestry Association

500 Pinnacle Ct., Suite 505, Norcross, GA 30309
Phone 770-416-7621
www.gfagrow.org

Georgia Forestry Commission

P.O. Box 819, Macon, GA 31202, Phone 800-GA TREES
www.gfc.state.ga.us

Keep Georgia Beautiful

60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
Phone (404) 679-4910, Fax 404-679-0646
www.dca.state.ga.us/solidwaste/kgb

National Arbor Day Foundation

100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410
Phone 402-474-5655
www.arborday.org

Park Pride

675 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30308
Phone 404-817-6760
www.parkpride.org

Savannah Tree Foundation

3025 Bull St., Savannah, GA 31405
Phone 912-233-TREE
Savstf@aol.com

The Georgia Conservancy

Main Office: 1776 Peachtree St. NW, Ste. 400 South, Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone 404-876-2900, Fax 404-872-9229
Coastal Office: 428 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401
Phone 912-447-5910, tgccoast@bellsouth.net
www.gaconservancy.org

Treelink

This site was created to provide information, research, and networking for people working in urban and community forestry. For the researcher, the arborist, the community group leader, or the volunteer, the purpose is to inform, educate, and inspire.
www.treelink.org

Trees Atlanta

96 Poplar Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Phone 404-522-4097, Fax 404-522-6855, info@treesatlanta.org
www.treesatlanta.org

LOOKING FOR SEEDLINGS TO PLANT?

Georgia Forestry Commission has a limited number of seedlings that you can purchase for your tree planting project. For information, check out our website at www.gfc.state.ga.us.



GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

J. Frederick Allen, Director

478-751-3500

1-800 GA TREES (GA only)

P.O. Box 819 Macon GA 31202 **or**
5645 Riggins Mill Rd Dry Branch GA 31020

District 1 - Rome

3086 Martha Berry Hwy NE
Rome GA 30165
706-295-6021/6022
706-295-6921 (fax)

DF: Carl Melear
DS: Sherri Cummings

District 2 - Gainesville

3005 Atlanta Hwy
Gainesville GA 30507
770-531-6043/6048
770-531-4080 (fax)

DF: Kenneth B. Masten
DS: Joan Thomas

District 3 - Athens

1055 E Whitehall Rd
Athens GA 30605
706-542-6880
706-369-5711 (fax)

DF: Larry Morris
DS: Sherrie Gabriel

District 4 - Newnan

187 Corinth Rd
Newnan GA 30263
770-254-7218
770-254-7371 (fax)

DF: John Merrill
DS: Grace Reid

District 5 - Milledgeville

119 Hwy 49 West
Milledgeville GA 31061
478-445-5164/5548
478-445-2897 (fax)

DF: Greg Strenkowski
DS: Tammy Ramsey

District 6 - Washington

1465 Tignall Rd
Washington GA 30673
706-678-2015
706-678-1766 (fax)

DF: William "Cliff" Hargrove, III
DS: Nancy Young

District 7 - Americus

243 US Hwy 19 North
Americus GA 31709
912-931-2436/2437
912-931-2762 (fax)

DF: Phillip Porter
DS: Pamela Kennedy

District 8 - Tifton

2395 US Hwy 41 North
Tifton GA 31794
912-386-3617/3619/7177
912-386-7457 (fax)

DF: Mike Ryfun
DS: Linda McRanie

District 9 - Camilla

3561 Hwy 112
Camilla GA 31730
912-522-3580/3581
912-522-3583 (fax)

DF: Greg Findley
DS: Lila Lane

District 10 - Statesboro

18899 US Hwy 301 North
Statesboro GA 30461
912-681-0490/0496
912-871-1719 (fax)

DF: Warren "Dan" Gary, Jr
DS: Nancy Jones

District 11 - McRae

Route 1 Box 67
Helena GA 31037
912-868-5649/2622
912-868-7986 (fax)

DF: W.R. "Bill" Barrett
DS: Barbara Steele

District 12 - Waycross

5003 Jacksonville Hwy
Waycross GA 31503
912-287-4915
912-284-2911 (fax)

DF: Dessie "Buck" Wynn, III
DS: Gloria Herrin

DF=District Forester

DS= District Secretary

For County Office information and personnel e-mail visit our website address: www.gfc.state.ga.us

GEORGIA

OUTLINE MAP
SHOWING
Georgia Forestry Commission
DISTRICTS

* District Office

